

Reviewing The New Books

Can the Big Three Preserve World Peace Or Will Their Nations Become Divided?

THE BIG THREE

By David Dallin. (Yale University Press; \$2.75.)

By Mary-Carter Roberts

More and more, as the date of military victory recedes into the past, writers on world affairs are coming to view the future in terms of the divided, rather than the United Nations.

There is obviously a general opinion that, as the powers become allies by accident, they will find the state of alliance no subsequent binding tie. Whereas, of course, the state of being powers is not a state similarly to be shaken off.

The dream of a world in permanent peace has not disappeared, but in the writings of students of affairs, it is growing dimmer. These men are now looking into the crystal and guessing how, where and when the present arrangements may lead to the next war.

They admit that they are guessing. But they are clear in admitting that they do not think that a mere second world war has ushered in the millennium. There will certainly be some more fighting, they hold, and since that is so, why not get ready by figuring where the new embroilment may take place?

David Dallin, a native of Russia, was one of the Tsar's political exiles who returned to participate in the revolution of 1917. Within five years he was an exile all over again, and has remained there ever since. He has written a number of books on Russia which are distinguished by their solid factual quality. In his present volume he considers how and where the Big Three may fall out and sees in Russia the most likely disturber of the future peace.

He warns his readers that the Russian government has never abandoned its principle of fomenting a Communist revolution on a world-wide scale. It has only pretended to do so. Lenin laid down the principle, which he repeats in words which might have come from the late Hitler—"We have to use any ruse, dodges, tricks, cunning, unlawful method, concealment, veiling of truth." Proceeding on this dispensation, the Soviets have until recently pursued a policy of live-and-let-live. But now, in Mr. Dallin's view, swollen with victory, they propose to launch a program of tremendous expansion, a part of which will be the virtual forcing of Communist puppet governments on weaker states. He sees in this, already seen in this tendency, but the popular view has been that it would find no expression beyond states contiguous to Russia's borders.

In terms of expansion, Russia aims at the world—not rashly, not in terms of reckless military venturing, but in terms of constant ruthless expansion. Therein, in his view, lies the germ of the next world war. Like Hitler, Stalin or his successors will take one step too many and precipitate a conflict. That will happen, he says, as soon as the other powers begin to view Russia with fear and consider her immune to appeasement. In short, the old program.

His book is occupied with tracing in three critical zones of the world the probable fortunes of the Big Three within the predictable future. The zones are Europe, the Middle East and the Far East. In all of them he sees Russia planning to extend her present limitations in opposition to Anglo-American interests. He emphasizes that her weapon will be the already familiar political one; she will not occupy territories but will be content with "friendly" native governments. The friendly governments will receive their orders from Moscow and will last precisely as long as they obey. If plebiscites are held they will be distinguished by all the freedom which now attends an election on Russian soil.

So Russia May Move In Europe, in addition to her long-range drive for political domination, Mr. Dallin believes that Russia will strive for outlets to the ocean by way of Greece, Yugoslavia or the Kiel Canal to the end that she may become a great naval power—an indispensable factor in a war against an Anglo-American combination. In the Middle East she will resume the old struggle with

Twilight Bar

By Arthur Koestler. (Macmillan; \$2.)

This new work by Arthur Koestler is a short play and seems to mark the extreme progress of the erstwhile leftist conscientiously recanting. In sum it tells us that humanity may just as well give up. Our species is ridiculous beyond hope, says Mr. Koestler, and anything it attempts to do is doomed to ridiculous failure. So let those figures so convenient to despairing revolutionaries—the inhabitants of other planets—take over. Since Mr. Wells has pretty well put his patent on the Martians, Mr. Koestler plumps for the inhabitants of a satellite of Aldebaran.

His play is a satirical farce, genuinely humorous. Its action turns on the arrival by space ship of two inhabitants of the Aldebaran planet, bent on discovering whether there is enough happiness in our species to justify our existence. The immediate answer is no, but the emissaries allow two days for the earth-dwellers to step the quotient after which they will return. In failure, humanity is to be destroyed.

The top-hatted government resigns before such a crisis, begging the radicals to take over. But the radicals have no program except for free dental care and hot tea at 11 for all factory workers. So a gossip columnist steps into the breach with a plan for free champagne, merry-go-rounds and sex license. The practical application of the idea is taken over, while he makes speeches, by a female tycoon who knows how to organize things. She brings in her company police, has the champagne forcibly administered and orders the arrest of all happiness-resisters.

The scheme catches on—the Scotch protest in principle against a happiness quotient of more than 2½ per cent, the Russians simply shoot every one who does not look cheerful. But presently the word goes round that the Aldebarans are imposters after all and the grand global binge flattens out to normalcy. The top-hats come back, the radicals, greatly relieved, pick up their agitation, the citizens settle contentedly down to unhappiness. That's what we are, says Mr. Koestler. That's the best that we can do, even under pressure to save our mortal lives.

Only an erstwhile idealist could be so completely damning.

Britain over Iran, which is now complicated by British and American need for Iran's oil. Russia does not share that need, but she will nonetheless enter the arena. In Mr. Dallin's view, in the Far East she has her weapon ready to hand in China's Communist army, which she has nourished for the purpose and which renders her devoted allegiance. Using this weapon she may well claim, as spheres of influence, Outer Mongolia, Manchuria, Sinkiang and a good share of North China. Korea may also come within her claims, on the ground that it was a Russian sphere under the Tsar. Japan, in other words, will be expelled from Asia by American arms, in order that Russia may move in, as Mr. Dallin sees it.

Indeed, the only conclusion to be drawn from Mr. Dallin's book is that the new aggressor is at hand. Like the old one it is equipped with an ideological fervor which, it holds, justifies any and all violations of international agreements, and the destruction of any who, for reasons of their own interest or integrity, oppose it. His work is not alarmist in tone. It is, instead, almost placidly factual. It draws no program of its own though it does, eventually, to Moscow's expanding world



DAVID DALLIN.
"... some thing will certainly be more more threatening."

rule, Mr. Dallin sees the other members of the Big Three, with Britain America's junior partner, and he considers that America's past policy in the Far East, which set a precedent in international idealism, may, backed by the combined impressive forces of the two, provide a constructive plan for future guidance.

The Uncertain Journey

By Oscar Lewis. (Knopf; \$2.50.)

The theme of this novel is one which calls for serious literary treatment. The treatment which the author has accorded that theme, however, is strictly on the level of deft commercial fiction. The result is the well-known hiatus between the two schools. It ought to be a better book or a worse one.

The theme aforementioned is that of the all-excluding love which a serious man sometimes has for a frivolous and unmoral woman. The scene is San Francisco of the inter-war years, where Bruce Priest, a young student of architecture, comes under the fascination of Elaine Barnes, a stenographer. In order to be able to marry, Bruce abandons his studies and takes a job. Elaine, who is engaged to him, light-heartedly marries some one else. This gambit is subsequently repeated. Bruce learns in time that Elaine is faithless and mercenary, and he also learns that he will always love her. So the book ends with him summoning her once more, knowing that his success as a commercial artist (achieved most improbably, by the way) will attract her from her other admirers, at least for a while.

That is all there is to it. The characters are the thinnest silhouettes and the incidents are often forced. Oscar Lewis has, however, some sophistication of mind, and his comments, if not his people, are witty and to the point.

Best Sellers

(According to Publishers' Weekly.)

—NATION-WIDE—

FICTION.

1st—A Lion in the Streets, Adria Locke Langley.

2d—Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Upton Sinclair.

3d—Commodore Hornblower, C. S. Forester.

4th—Captain From Castle, Samuel Shillaber.

5th—The Fish and the Frying Pan, Bruce Marshall.

NONFICTION.

1st—Up Front, Bill Mauldin.

2d—Brave Men, Ernie Pyle.

3d—A. Woolcott, Samuel Hopkins.

4th—Black Boy, Richard Wright.

5th—The World, Stephen M. Bennett.

—IN WASHINGTON—

FICTION.

1st—A Lion in the Streets, Adria Locke Langley.

2d—So Well Remembered, James Hilton.

3d—The Fish and the Frying Pan, Bruce Marshall.

4th—Commodore Hornblower, C. S. Forester.

5th—The Happy Time, Robert Con-

NONFICTION.

1st—The Pattern of Soviet Power, 2d—Brave Men, Ernie Pyle.

3d—A. Woolcott, Gertrude Lawrence.

4th—Black Boy, Robert J. Casey.

5th—The World, Stephen M. Bennett.



The "Big Three" of the Potsdam Conference: GENERALISSIMO JOSEF STALIN, PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN and PRIME MINISTER CLEMENT R. ATTLEE.

'E' Company

By Frank O'Rourke. (Simon & Schuster; \$2.)

The formula to which this short novel conforms is by now a fairly familiar one to readers of war books. It is the formula which covers the development of a casually assembled group of men into a military company worthy of the name. The story begins with the formation of E Company on December 17, 1941, at Camp McIntosh in Alabama and carries on through training and maneuvers until, after a few days in battle in Africa, the remnants of the group so laboriously created are sent behind the lines for "replacements."

The author's care naturally has been to present E Company as a typical one, both in training and personnel, so he moves his narrative forward by means of incidents and characters which by now have somewhat the quality of stereotypes.

We have the fine young captain who is like a father to his soldiers, we have the outwardly tough but inwardly kind old Army noncom, the gold-brickers, the hot dice crappers, the serious soldiers, the idealists, the idealistic women. They are all more or less routine figures in books on Army life, both fiction and nonfiction. But Frank O'Rourke writes with a persuasive sincerity and a good sense of narrative proportion. Though without original quality, his book is a worthy representative of its class.

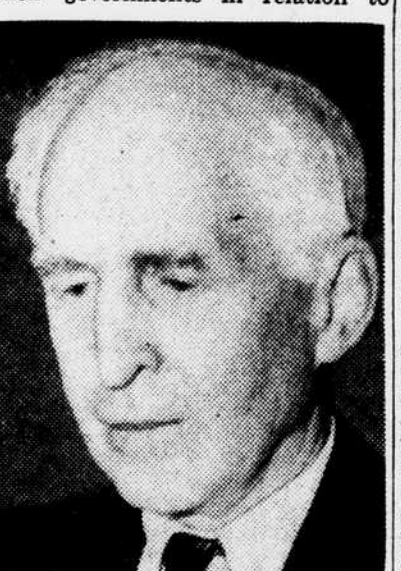
As any reader will guess, he has been in the Army himself. He went in in the spring of 1941, received a lieutenant's commission and was invalided out in 1943.

The Economic Basis Of Politics

By Charles A. Beard. (Knopf; \$1.75.)

The first four chapters of this little book consist of four lectures which Dr. Beard first delivered in 1916 on the Clark Foundation at Amherst College. Revised, the lectures were brought out in book form in 1922. Since then there has been a steady demand for the work. Now, to the four as they were published in 1922, Dr. Beard adds a fifth chapter designed to cover recent developments in the subject.

The conclusion reached in his earlier coverage of economics in politics is based, as he observes, on all history up to the time of the writing. Until Rousseau's influence made itself felt, it was generally recognized that government existed to regulate, control and protect property. Hence most stood before their governments in relation to



CHARLES A. BEARD.
"... The function demanded of government ... remains the same."

their possession of property and governmental representation was determined along the line of property classes. Man, in short, was "economic man."

With Rousseau there appeared, however, the idea of political equality; politically all men were held to be equal, regardless of the property they possessed. There was obvious divergence between the two ideas, but in actual practice economic classes continued to exist and to get their interests represented before their governments. This happened even in Russia, where a "classless society" was set up by decree. The economic basis of politics therefore is established as the inevitable one.

Considering in his new chapter the developments of the last 20 years, Dr. Beard takes note of the rise of pure dictatorships and the increase of state power in the democracies and comes to the conclusion that the changing factors have not changed the basic fact. We have now a threatened conflict between economic, political and military man, but the function demanded of government in any form remains the same—that it maintain an efficient economic basis.

The American Language

By H. L. Mencken. (Knopf; \$5.)

The fourth edition of H. L. Mencken's "American Language" appeared in 1936, with its emphasis on the dominance which, in Mr. Mencken's view, American English is gaining over British English.



H. L. MENCKEN.
"A work of scholarship which is also immensely entertaining."

Since that time the Sage has not abandoned his researches but has gone on laboring strenuously in his chosen vineyard. The result is the present "Supplement I," a volume of over 700 pages and the promise of "Supplement II" of about the same dimensions to come forth within a year.

The term "supplement," Mr. Mencken warns, is to be taken literally. The present volume consists of new material altogether and is, moreover, keyed to the fourth edition by the use of the same headings as appeared in that work. It covers only the first six chapters, or about half, of the parent volume, which will give the reader some idea of the voluminousness of the additions. The latter half will be covered in the promised "Supplement II." The supplements, in other words, will lengthen out the fourth edition to about three times its original length.

It is glad news, "The American Language" is a work of scholarship which is also immensely entertaining. In "Supplement I" the added material, following, as noted, the form of the fourth edition, traces various influences which have caused the separation of the two streams of English from the days when early colonists had to add such words as "tomahawk" and "moccasin" to their vocabularies down to the present. Such concrete stimuli to word-making as the new country and the mixture of varied nationalities are given due attention but the great reason for the linguistic schism, in Mr. Mencken's view, has been the carrying on in America of the creative Elizabethan habit of mind toward speech. The 18th century in England was one of notorious formalism and had a consequent deadening effect on the language. The colonies escaped this arrestation and, additionally stimulated by their new surroundings, set out on a word-making spree which still continues. It has borne a lot of unprofitable fruit, as Mr. Mencken points out, such as the explosion of "talk" which has taken place in the mid-years of the 19th century. But it stands as a demonstration of pioneering attitude of the American mind.

British and American English. Considering British and American English at present, Mr. Mencken still finds that the latter is in the dominant position. The citizens of the United Kingdom whose position in the world is indicated by the gentle phrase, "lower orders," accept American amendments to their common speech constantly and with enthusiasm, whence, as he sees it, the amendments move upward. Whereas British word imports to America catch on, if at all, only among our upper crust, where they stay, they remain somewhat prissy affectations among us while our own words and phrases tend to become parts of regular British speech.

The supplement, like the parent work, is no lexicon. It explores the influences which have been at work on our language and merely gives examples. Some of these are excellent readings, as Mr. Mencken's modest account of the way he brought about (Miss Gypsy Rose Lee dissenting) the substitution of the chaste term "ecdyssist" for "stripteaser." Also, as in the parent work, there are some apparent errors. The phrase "fire up," for instance, Mr. Mencken lists as a Britishism impossible to Americans, but I have been using it for 20 years without even knowing that it was not native, and I do not think that

Are Men Equal?

By Henry Alonzo Myers. (Putnam; \$2.50.)

Reviewed by W. H. HARRISON.

The Declaration of Independence proclaims that "all men are created equal." The idea is central and indispensable to our democratic way of life, but far too many Americans seem to regard it as mere rhetoric over which nobody need lose any sleep. Mr. Myers' book is addressed to them. In effect, it tells them that to deny or neglect the concept of equality is to take a long step backward toward forging the chains of their own enslavement. Men are not equal mentally, of course. Nor are they equal physically or morally. But Mr. Myers makes clear in felicitous and carefully reasoned prose that the true measure of a human being is not the deficiencies or excellencies of that being's mind or body, but his own sense of his own significance in relation to the society around him. "In what matters most to men, this world has the same import to all; it teaches each the lesson of his own infinite worth. And so men who are equal to the same thing are equal to each other."

A brief review cannot do justice to the arguments Mr. Myers sets forth to support this thesis. A man of not a little distinction in the field of formal philosophy and a teacher of English at Cornell he combines weighty logic with an understanding of literature to favor us with a book that has a ring of genuine authority in it. Not everything he says—such as that poetry may be accepted as the "science" of human values—is unassailable, but on the whole he constructs an airtight case in behalf of the "germinal principle" of democracy.

Mr. Myers' book is as important and timely as his warning that "unless we prove to the satisfaction of all that true justice is based on the equality of men, Hitlerism will rule the world in spite of Hitler's downfall." By his fine thinking and writing he does much to guard against that evil possibility.

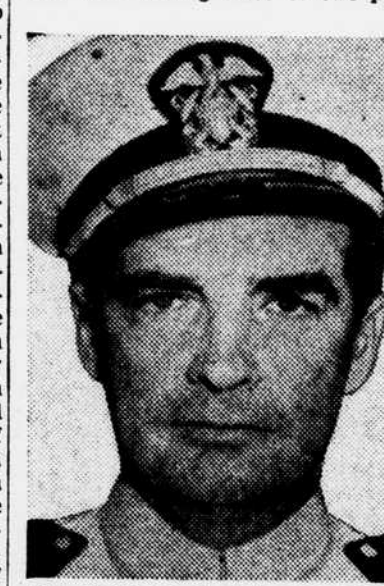
Silversides

By Robert Trumbull. (Holt; \$2.50.)

U. S. S. Seawolf

By Gerold Frank and James D. Horan, with J. M. Eckberg. (Putnam; \$2.75.)

The Navy has decided all of a sudden to let us know the facts of life about submarines. Following Robert J. Casey's general story, "Battle Below," there come across this desk the exciting tales of two par-



LT. COMDR. C. BURLINGAME
Captain of the Silversides.

ticular submarines, Silversides and Seawolf, among the early and most deadly raiders to carry war to the Japanese.

Doolittle got credit for being among the first to take a look at the enemy's home island, but many

I could be the only American so studied. There are also a rather large number of obvious typographical mistakes for a work of such importance.

Both books are illustrated with photographs. W. G. R.

Among the Authors

By Carolyn Giggins

At a party the other day a gentleman drifted up to us and inquired, "Did you ever read 'Anna and the King of Siam'?"

"Of course," we answered brightly. "Margaret Landon wrote it. It's one of our favorite books." Seems this gentleman knew nothing about our work but simply wanted to get something off his chest—that he had been in love as a young man with the Anna who is a granddaughter of the Anna in the book. According to him the present Anna is just as gifted as her grandmother ever was. She was a pianist whose concerts were lauded by the critics with the most extravagant praise could dream up and Anna has cut across the face of the world, like a brilliant comet, delighting those around her wherever she went. She returned to this continent only a few years ago after many years in Germany.

"Where is she now?" we asked him. "Oh, in the South somewhere or in the Bahamas," said he. So we thought we would tell this story to see what more we could learn. It was a timely incident, for only last week "Anna and the King of Siam" went into a reprint edition at half its original price.

Ellin Berlin, who is Mrs. Irving Berlin, wrote a book about a year ago called "Land I Have Chosen." It created quite a stir because it was much better than people expected from a woman who already had everything. In fact, it is still prospering and now Betty Davis and Joan Crawford will star in a movie version of it.

After 2,286,000 copies of "The Boston Cooking School Cook Book," by Fannie Merritt Farmer, have been secured by would-be cooks it also is going into reprint edition this month.

Home Fires Burning

By Robert Henriques. (Viking Press; \$2.50.)

Lt. Col. Robert Henriques, in a novel which he wrote while in the war was in progress, "The Voice of the Trumpet," permitted himself to express a doubt as to efficacy of idealistic war aims to a soldier who aims to atone to dead soldiers for their lives. In the present novel, he again voices a pessimism. He writes of the returning soldier and his failure to find a place in civilian society. The disappointed veterans, he says by way of his story, may well seek to set up a soldier government of their own—or, to be blunt, fascism. He sees the specter in the air and gets quite shaky over it. In his novel he lets it far outweigh any of his human characters in interest or importance.

His plot deals with the return of a soldier to find that his home has been corrupted by the fascist idea and is planning to put himself at the head of a soldier party. He rejects the notion and the fiancée, too, of course. So do the war-torn veterans. But the possibility remains that Col. Henriques at pains to point out. In effect, his book amounts to a grave, "Be-ware."

It is preciously written, frequently to the point of near-unintelligibility.

Public Library

THE ATOM

By John Lord.

Technology Division, Washington Public Library.

"Why Smash Atoms?" by Arthur K. Solomon, published in 1940, gives a simple and concise account of the interior of the atom and describes three methods of attack by which to break it up and identify its constituents.

Three years later Rogers D. Rusk's popularly written "Forward With Science" was published, with attention paid to uranium fission on which the atomic bomb apparently is based. The chapter "Harnessing Atomic Energy" discusses the splitting of uranium 235 and speculation on its possibilities as of 1943.

History of discoveries relating to the atom is given in "Energy and Matter," by Charles B. Dazson, published in 1932, but does not include the more recent information on uranium. For the physicist and the reader of somewhat less technical training" the dean of American physicists, Robert A. Millikan, wrote in 1935 "Electrons (+ and -) and Protons, Photons, Neutrons and Cosmic Rays." It is a basic work on the atom, but needs to be supplemented by later books.

unsung subs must have taken many daring periscope peeks.

Seawolf is sister ship to the tragic Squalus. Under "Fearless Freddy" Warder, lieutenant commander, she visited Manila, slowed the foe's advance south of Java, fought through the Dutch East Indies. Warder joins the almost interminable list of officers telling his crew, when the Navy Cross is pinned on him, that it's "as much yours as it is mine."

Trumbull seems the most evocative of the writers. He has a knack of making you understand exactly what it's like to "fire one, fire two"; to cover far below the surface and feel the depth charges shivering your timbers.

It was aboard the Silversides that Pharmacist's Mate Thomas Moore performed, with the aid of some regulation instruments, plus an ironing board and spoons, the famous appendectomy on George Flanagan.

Both books are illustrated with photographs. W. G. R.

Book Reviews in Brief

AMERICAN SCENE AND RESOURCES.

Buried Treasure, by Marion B. Cothern. (Howard-McCann.) The story of America's coal.

Your Forests, by Martha Bensley Bruere. (Lippincott.) The story of America's timber.

The Golden Hoof, by Winifred Kupper. (Knopf.) History of sheep raising in the Southwest.

Lake Ontario, by Arthur Pound. (Bobbs-Merrill.) The latest addition to this publisher's Lake Series.

OLD MASTERS.

The Scandal, by Pedro Antonio Alarcon, translated from the Spanish by Philip H. Ripley and Hubert James Tunney. (Knopf.)

The Civilization of Renaissance Italy, by Jacob Burckhardt. (Oxford University Press.)

ADVENTURES AND ESCAPES OF GUSTAVUS VASA

By Henrik Willem Van Loon. (Dodd, Mead; \$2.50.)

This, the last book written by the late Hendrik Willem Van Loon, is the story of a hero practically unknown to American readers, Gustavus Vasa, who, in the early 16th century, started a new country, Sweden, free of Danish domination. It is written in the plain popular style which Mr. Van Loon mastered so well and, save that its text includes some pretty grim action, could be read by children as well as by adults.

It is a hero story, pure and simple. Gustavus being much of his time either a hostage or a refugee with a high price on his head, but indefatigably laboring for his country's freedom no matter what went against him, the story in this edition, colorfully illustrated.

SPORTS.

Retriever Gun Dogs, by William F. Brown. (Barnes.) A work on the different retrieving breeds with rules for training from puppyhood on. Illustrated with photographs.

Base by Harold C. Hollis. (Barnes.) The different kinds of bass and the equipment and tactics required to catch each. Illustrated with photographs.

Tennis Made Easy, by Lloyd Budge. (Barnes.) A comprehensive covering of the game and how to play it.

Best Sports Stories of 1944, edited by Irving T. Marsh and Edward Ehre. (Dutton.) Collected articles on sports subjects, all well done.

NOVELS.

The Rim, by Frances M. Sedgwick. (Howard-McCann.) Novel about matrimonial tangle. Heavy.

Mr. Heriot's House, by Barbara Webster. (Scribner.) Story of a woman retreating to the country to find solitude and then becoming engrossed in the life of her servant. Well done.

ORIENT.

China's Crisis, by Lawrence K. Rosinger. (Knopf.) A study of China in relation to the postwar world. The author is a research associate of the Foreign Policy Association.

POETRY.

Silent Fame and Other Poems, by Lloyd Habery. (Macmillan.) Measured and accomplished verses.

Choir and Tempest, by Esther Fremont. (Great-Concord.) Long rugged poem about war and peace introduced as a "preface to a new poetry" but reading like much else that has been written since the heyday of Walt Whitman.

PLAYS.

The Best One-Act Plays of 1944, edited by Margaret Mayorga. (Dodd-Mead.) The eighth edition of the annual collection.

Seven Plays by Maxim Gorki. Translated from the Russian by Alexander Bakshy. (Yale University Press.) Plays well known in Russia put into English by a contemporary dramatic critic.

LABOR

(Continued From Page C-1.)

of a competitive economy both on domestic and international planes. It also demanded, as a result of wartime experience, drastic measures of social reconstruction.

These did not come. The Conservative party was in office, with great majorities for all the inter-war years save for two brief periods when the Labor party itself was a minority government jockeyed out of office each time by carefully organized stunts and scares.

In 20 years of Conservative rule, which has been increasingly clear not even to Labor supporters but also only to the great masses of unattached voters was that the forces behind conservatism had no interest in doing more than safeguarding their power. They never seriously attempted to tackle the grim problem of unemployment, they even treated the unemployed as though they were enemies of the nation. They showed clearly their fear of educational change. They were timid about large-scale housing plans. They supported the reactionary mine-owners. They were against the decay of agriculture was subsidies to the landowner and farmer. They watched cotton, shipping, iron and steel drift into incompetence and inefficiency. They saw science and technology either not used or frustrated.

"Man of the Past."

Above all, the real minds of the forces which supported Toryism were revealed in their passionate hostility to trade unionism in the general strike of 1926 and the con-

New Books

Peter's Silver Dollar, \$2. August 21.

Flight From China, \$2.50, August 21.

Yvon, \$1.75, August 21.

Out of Control, \$2. August 22.

The Economic Basis of Politics, \$1.75, August 22.

Brain, \$2. August 20.

The Uncertain Journey, \$2.50, August 20.

The Free State, \$2. August 20.

The American Language, Supplement, \$2.50, August 21.

Twilight Bar, \$2. August 21.